

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Approximately 15 acres of 70-year-old timber will be harvested from 4 units in the forested area of Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve (NAP). Estimated volume is 177 MBF. The purpose of this harvest is to improve habitat quality for Garry oaks occurring on the property. The Douglas firs that are shading or otherwise competing with oaks will be removed, or girdled/topped to create wildlife habitat. This is an even-aged stand. The trees will be cut and removed using a harvester-forwarder system, minimizing impacts on soil, vegetation and surrounding oaks. Previously existing roads will be temporarily cleared of debris for timber removal. When the project is complete, the roads will be allowed to fill in again. There are no plans to re-plant the site, as the oaks will be left, and the eventual goal is an oak woodland ecosystem.

Description of mitigation: The following mitigation measures will be implemented with this proposal:

- No new roads will be constructed
- Low-impact harvesting equipment, such as a forwarder system, will be used in order to minimize soil compaction and erosion
- The quality of habitat at Mima Mounds NAP will continue to improve by removing Douglas fir and invasive species and encouraging the propagation of native prairie species in newly released areas after harvest
- Some larger, structurally unique Douglas fir will be left as leave trees
- Native seed will be collected for propagation and re-planting and seeding at the site
- Harvest and cleanup operations will be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and no operations will occur on weekends or holidays per contract requirements.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources

Location of proposal: Section 3, Township 16 North, Range 3 West, W.M., approximately 1 mile west of Littlerock in Thurston County, Washington.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

☒ This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from August 18, 2009. Comments must be submitted by September 1, 2009.

Responsible official: Eric Wisch ERIC WISCH

Position/title: Acting Region Mgr. Phone: (360) 577-2025

Address: PO Box 280 Castle Rock, Washington 98611-0280

Date 8/18/09

Signature Eric W. Smith

There is no agency SEPA appeal.